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Approved For Release 2000/08/08 : CIA-RDP96-00789R000400930001-5

memorandum

DATE: 10 FEB 1989

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: DB-5C

SUBJECT: Evaluation of SUNSTREAK Reporting on U.S. Hostages (S)

TO: DT

1. (S/NF/SS-3) SUMMARY: While a complete and accurate evaluation of the use of SUNSTREAK reporting on U.S. hostages cannot be conducted until additional hostage releases occur, preliminary findings indicate that the SUNSTREAK program does, indeed, represent an additional source of positive, hostage-related information. At a minimum, SUNSTREAK reporting stimulates analytic deliberation, may help focus and guide collection efforts, and forces reevaluation of extant theories and methodologies. Moreover, experience with SUNSTREAK hostage-related reporting over the past year revealed several instances of startling corroboration of other intelligence collection disciplines (on both locational and health issues) and an impressive logical consistency amidst the complex factional morass that is Lebanon. In short, SUNSTREAK reporting, even in the absence of corroborating evidence that could be provided by a released hostage, is assessed to be as reliable and accurate on locational issues as many other sources of hostage-related information emanating from Lebanon. The SUNSTREAK program represents yet another source of information and stimulation for the intelligence analyst.

2. (S/NF SS-3) LOCATIONAL DATA: On the issue of locational information, SUNSTREAK reporting has been remarkably logical despite the complex and dynamic nature of Lebanese territorial and factional strife. The odds pinpointing a hostage location that would be completely illogical in the Lebanese context are great. For example a location that fell in an area controlled by the Syrians, Amal, Druze, Lebanese Forces, or Israelis would

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3. (S/NF/SS-3) On at least one occasion, SUNSTREAK reporting on Higgins'

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WARNING NOTICE: This information restricted to those with verified access to SUNSTREAK Level 3 (SS-3).

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4. (S/NF/SS-3) HEALTH INFORMATION: While no accurate assessment can be made at this time on SUNSTREAK reports dealing with health dynamics--swings in physical and mental well-being--the overall picture presented by SUNSTREAK is consistent with judgments made by the Intelligence Community. Moreover, the health dynamic portrayed by SUNSTREAK reports

Despite periodic news and intelligence reports that certain hostages had died, SUNSTREAK reports have consistently and emphatically assessed all the hostages to be alive. DIA agrees with the assessment, and recent reporting strongly indicates the same.

5. (S/NF/SS-3) COMMENT: Our initial assessment is that SUNSTREAK reporting shows great promise on the issues of hostage locations, but, much less potential for predicting future or sequential events. Furthermore, reports generated as a result of focusing on a single hostage (rather than the hostage issue as a whole) appear to have a higher degree of accuracy.

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